

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

VOLUME VIII No. 3

SUMMER 1978

*As A Bicentennial
Gesture Of Gratitude
To Our Founding Fathers*

John Q. Citizen

**Participated In A
Classroom Reading And
Discussion Of Our
Declaration Of Independence**

**The Schools of Rutland
on May 10th of our
Bicentennial Year**

*Gilbert G. Godnick, Mayor
City of Rutland, Vermont*



In an original ceremony, so appropriate that it was repeated as far away as Idaho and Mississippi, hundreds of Rutlanders chose May 10th—the day in 1775 when the Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga and the Continental Congress convened—as a fitting occasion to visit every class in every school in the city. Our nation's Declaration of Independence was read and discussed in 1976. The Republic of Vermont's own Declaration of Independence was given similar honor in 1977 for its own Bicentennial observance. Some went directly to classrooms assigned; others gathered 'round the Green Mountain Boy in Federal Park for brief preliminary ceremonies. Nurses and hardhats joined waitresses and lawyers—a barber and a United States Senator went along with housewives and clergy when the great outpouring of non-teachers went back to school. Here, while still fresh in the memory of our contemporaries, we present the League Of Volunteers Evergrateful in scenes and features from LOVE '76 and LOVE '77.



Reverent and proud stands this small section of the hundreds gathered in patriotism. While it is impossible to identify everyone above, especially the man behind the sign, we can list the six faces along the top: Vermont's lone US Representative James Jeffords, Anthony Abatiell, George and Dorothy Covall, Louise McCoy and Beryl Todd.

Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all upon payment of dues to the Assistant Treasurer—John Diodati, 16 Cottage Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701. Dues are \$2.00 per year for regular members; for those wishing to give the Society further support, a contributing membership is \$10.00; a business membership is \$25.00; a life membership (one payment only) is \$75.00; and a sustaining membership is \$100.00.

All members receive as part of their membership four issues of the *Quarterly*. The expiration date of each membership is listed on the mailing label of the publication. Members wishing to pay two or more years dues in advance are encouraged to do so to reduce costs.

Editor: Tom Egan

Photos by: Tom Egan, Allen Gilbert, Marc Pfenning.



They came -
 Hundreds strong -
 From all walks of life -
 for LOVE '76 and '77



NOTES on OVERLEAF

1. Each kit had label with names of Volunteer, Teacher, School and Classroom. All classes were covered—some had two or more visitors.
2. Rev. James Engle in 1976 and Rev. David Dean in 1977 led the assemblage in recitation that was tape recorded for posterity.
3. It is an interesting coincidence that President Ulysses S. Grant opened the Centennial Exhibition on such a significant date in Vermont history.
4. A copy of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Vermont was available in 1977.
5. LOVE '76 Red-White-Blue Button was followed, in 1977, with a LOVE '77 Green Ribbon.
6. A portion of the '76 certificate is shown on our cover. Its Vermont mate is on page 23.

①

V O L U N T E E R — 1 9 7 6

Centennial Hymn of Thanks

②

Our father's God ; from out whose hand,
The centuries fall like grains of sand,
We meet to-day, united, free,
And loyal to our land and Thee,
To thank Thee for the era done
And trust Thee for the opening one.

For Art and Labor met in truce,
For beauty made the bride of Use,
We thank Thee while withal we crave
The austere virtues strong to save ;
The honor, proof to place or gold,
The manhood never bought and sold.

O ! make thou us, through centuries long,
In peace secure, in justice strong ;
Around our gift of Freedom draw
The safeguards of Thy righteous law,
And, cast in some diviner mould,
Let the new cycle shame the old !

composed by John Greenleaf Whittier,

MAY 10, 1876 - PHILADELPHIA

③

THIS KIT CONTAINS . . .

- ④ ★ Copies of *Declaration of Independence* for Students of Class Visited.
- ⑤ ★ "LOVE-76" BUTTON (Limited Edition) for Teacher.
- ⑥ ★ CERTIFICATE (suitable for framing) for Volunteer.

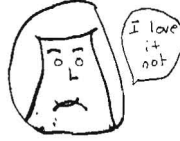




I thank you for coming Munday
come a gen You
were a grate visiter



Dear Mrs. Parker,
I... Thank you for coming to
While there was lively discussion in the high schools, the younger citizens enjoyed LOVE '76 & '77 too. (Original letters from children have been donated to our Society)



Almost enough to go out and talk about our beautiful state. Thanks Again.
Yours,
Mary Augustine

LOVE 77
Dear Mrs. Parker;
Thank you for coming to our class on that very special day May 10th, 'Love 77.' I learned more about Vermont in many ways. Love Day was lots of fun. Thanks Again.
Your family,
Mark Colborn

Did the Young Children Like It?

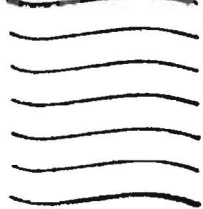
Special Stamp Cancellation

The Rutland Post Office will offer a special "Love-76" philatelic cancellation for stamp collectors on May 10, the day "Love-76" hits Rutland.

"Love-76" is a special Bicentennial program scheduled to bring community members into school classrooms to discuss the Declaration of Independence.

Any person wishing to have this cancellation applied to their envelopes may send them under cover to Postmaster Kenneth Yates in Rutland, or leave them with the window clerks at the Rutland office on or before May 10.

A special postmarked and cacheted envelope to commemorate "Love-76" will also be available through the Rutland County Stamp Club, 112 Baxter St., Rutland



This is a newsclip from the RUTLAND HERALD and the special stamp cancellation just as promised. Postmaster Yates donated almost \$100 in stamps that were cancelled on the LOVE '76 Volunteers' Certificate.



Republic of Vermont Bicentennial

Fay Bowker



*Participated in a Classroom
Reading & Discussion of
VERMONT'S
Declaration of Independence*

1777 The Schools of Rutland
200th Anniversary of
REPUBLIC OF VERMONT 1977

Margaret Angstadt
Margaret Angstadt, President
Rutland Education Association

Tom K. Egan
Tom K. Egan, Chairman
LOVE '76-LOVE '77



Gilbert G. Godnick
Gilbert G. Godnick, Mayor
City of Rutland, Vermont



ONE VOLUNTEER WROTE:

"In the forty-one years I have been in Rutland I have seen this community pull together for many crises over the period of years, but, categorically, this is the first time I have seen and felt the community pull together in pure "LOVE" . . .

. . . the warmth of the gathering will be a happy memory forever for those persons present, and for all who may come in contact . . .

Nothing that could be done better demonstrates the purpose of the Declaration of Independence than this project so capably brought to fruition."



Beside the Vermont Transit bus that would take them to a Rutland School—where the driver would go to the front of a classroom—stand ten volunteers wearing their own versions of red-white-blue outfits. From the cheerful countenances, it would be a challenge to guess which lady worked the nightshift at the phone company before her morning commitment.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 101 CENTER STREET, RUTLAND, VERMONT

The Society publishes the *Quarterly* for its members with the aim of preserving and studying the history of the Rutland community, which comprises the towns of West Rutland, Rutland, Proctor and the City of Rutland. The Society maintains and operates a museum at 101 Center Street, Rutland in the former Bank of Rutland building (built in 1825), now owned by the City of Rutland and leased to the Society at no charge.

**RUTLAND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
101 Center St.
Rutland, Vt.
05701

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rutland, Vermont
Permit No. 12

*The number or letter on the address label indicates your dues status:
78 one year in arrears 79 current L life membership*